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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 10 July 1951

SUBJECT Buhovo Uranium Mines

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1. The Buhovo uranium mines have 55 tunnels of which 50 are producing uranium ore. The tunnels are principally located in three areas near Buhovo: XL 5372, XL 5772 and XL 5868.
2. Operations are controlled by the Soviets; the director of the mine, a certain Maeski, the chief geologist named Bantsaev and one of the principal technicians, Koznitov are all Russians. Headquarters are at the village of Seslavltsi, where tunnel number 13 is located. Security is maintained by 80 Militia members in mobile patrols.
3. Employees of the mine include one Trudovak battalion, number 6710, and 400 civilian laborers. The Trudovaks perform the manual labor and the hired workers do skilled labor.
4. The length of the tunnels range from 500 to 3,000 meters; branches from the main tunnels are 75 to 200 meters long. Electricity is used to light the main tunnels and lanterns light the branches. Water often fills the main arteries and drownings are frequent.
5. Informants worked in the largest tunnel, number 19, where 30 tons of ore were mined every 24 hours. Other tunnels yielded up to 20 tons daily.
6. Extractions are made by gun powder charges 20 cm. long and 50 mm. wide. The extracted ore is placed in small cars drawn by an electric locomotive. After grading, the ore is loaded into ZIS and Molotov trucks and transported to the Buhovo factory where it is pulverized, packed in sacks and shipped to Russia.
7. The factory is situated on the northeast edge of Buhovo and is surrounded by barbed wire. Guards patrol around the factory and special identity cards are required to get into the area.

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Comment: This report amplifies the information in paragraphs one through four from the same informants. Locations are given in the Mediterranean Zone Grid.

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